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# The Institute Empire

**A**n unusual organization has been edgely prominent for some years. Its members "fellows" — have published many articles in the *New York Times*, and have appeared on television: it identifies the organization only as "a research organization based in Washington, D.C.," while Jim L. Channel 13, the "educational channel" of New York City, refers to it as a "liberal research outfit."

Moreover a new novel, *The Spike*, has just been written by two well-known commentators on international affairs, Arnaud de Borchgrave and Robert Moss, widely assumed to be based on this same organization. In the novel it is the channel through which the Soviet Union hopes to take over the United States.

Plainly, this "liberal research outfit" would deserve some attention. What, in fact, is the Institute for Policy Studies?

Though the subject of a 1971 article in a two-part series in *Barron's* in 1976, and a 1978 article in *The New York Post*, the Institute has received very little attention in the major media, which, however, frequently publish the writings of its Fellows. The Institute represents an unprecedented success in the achievement of the New Left, after its demise, in shaping United States policy.

The Institute for Policy Studies was founded 20 years ago by Marcus Raskin and Richard Barnet, who were to remain its directors for 15 years. The two had met while attending a White House/State Department disarmament conference on April 14, 1963. Raskin was on the staff of the National Security Council as an aide to McGeorge Bundy, and Barnet was then Director for Political Research of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Barnet noticed Raskin's alienation — his contempt for and hostility toward "the whole military-industrial establishment sitting there at one table." As Barnet later told an interviewer: "Marc and I both grimaced at the same moment — and knew we didn't belong here." Within two years Barnet and Raskin had put together the necessary funding, personnel, and programming: the Institute began work in 1963.

But the roots of IPS go back earlier. While Barnet's prior activities gave no hint of the path he was to take

fundamental for IPS: the need for total disarmament; the abandonment of existing alliances; the need to encourage revolutionary change in the underdeveloped world. Several contributors to the *Liberal Papers* were to play a part in IPS. David Riesman (with Barnet and Raskin) was one of the three trustees listed in the certificate of incorporation in November, 1962; Michael MacCoby and Arthur Waskow were to become Fellows of the Institute.

**T**he distinguishing marks of IPS have been its choice of audience, its methods, and its ideas. To begin with the least imaginative of these — the ideas — they have been endlessly restated in the voluminous writings of the IPS

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